



ORANGE, CONN.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 NOV -1 AM 8:22

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Michael J. Corris
TOWN CLERK

Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday October 27, 2021

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman Stephen Bespuda, Deborah Davis, Chuck Stackpole, William Nicoletti, Linda Kantor, Jack Pritchard, and Dave Corris

Commissioners Absent: Chairman James O'Connor and James Ronai

Staff: Dan Lynch, Director of Parks and Recreation; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chairman Bespuda called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 22, 2021

*Mr. Stackpole made a motion to approve the September 22, 2021 minutes, seconded by Mr. Nicoletti. All were in favor, with Ms. Kantor, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Corris abstaining. The motion **PASSED.***

4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Lynch advised that the Playground Committee presentation is scheduled for this evening under New Business. The election of officers took place last month and Mr. O'Connor was nominated for Chairman, Mr. Bespuda for Vice Chairman, and Mr. Nicoletti as Secretary. Due to an unexpected Branford Board of Education meeting, Mr. O'Connor was unable to attend this meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Playground Committee Report

- Mr. Travis Ewen spoke on behalf of the five-member Playground Committee. He explained that the Town of Orange was awarded \$300k from STEAP funding for use in Capital Projects, specifically for the construction of a new playground at Fred Wolfe Park. As all school playgrounds are closed to the general public during school hours, a playground open to the public during school hours is much needed.
- Mr. Travis explained the Master Plan of the playground, supplying a number of drawings to better illustrate the location of the site at Fred Wolfe Park, the equipment to be purchased, and the overall layout of the playground, which is to be a playground hub for all ages and abilities. Their Master Plan will also allow for the ability for future playground growth.
- The estimated cost for the project is \$382k. The Playground Committee is sponsoring community fundraising, and they are offering the purchase of namesake bricks as well as benches. The natural rock boulders are being repurposed and incorporated into the playground and names can be etched into the rock as a potential fundraiser.
- Mr. Travis pointed out that the road layout, parking, restrooms, lighting, and a splash pad are not included in this project, which is exclusively the construction of a playground. The Town will plan the parking and roadways. Creative Playgrounds, registered with the State, will follow all proper protocols and the playground area will be properly fenced in for safety.
- Mr. Tom Pisano, 123 Fairway Road, expressed his pleasure with the proposed playground. He recommended a bar fence versus a chain link fence as they cannot be climbed as easily by adolescents. He felt that this type of fencing provided a better safety measure. He also noted that there is a lot of acreage at Fred Wolfe Park and he looks forward to seeing all six phases of the Master Site Plan developed.

B. Grounds and Facilities – Steve Bispuda

- Mr. Bispuda has nothing to report at this time.

C. Personnel – Jim O’Connor

- Mr. Lynch had nothing to report at this time.

D. Budget

- There were no questions regarding the budget at this time.

E. Director’s Report

- Mr. Lynch thanked the Playground Committee members for their presentation and thanked Mr. Pisano for his input. He proceeded to report that fall baseball/softball, soccer, and lacrosse programs are all coming to a close for the season. Grass mowing will be finished this month.

Registration for Fall 2021 swim lessons and programs began on Monday, October 18th, and will begin October 25th for non-residents. All of the programs are listed on their website.

- Mr. Lynch explained that a modified Youth Basketball League program will be held for two six-week seasons. This modified program is due to the fact that only the HPCC Gym is available for use. The school gyms and Amity schools are not available.
- Mr. Lynch highlighting some of the recent programs, including the Halloween Drive and Fun Tober. He thanked Stephanie Middleton, Lynn Plaskowitz, and Jessica Simone for all of their hard work with the Halloween Drive.
- Mr. Lynch advised that the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to award the proposal for fencing at Fred Wolfe Park to Orange Fence for the installation of a 5 foot fence in the amount of \$21,175. This will replace the existing damaged guardrail.
- Lastly, Mr. Lynch discussed the protocols for COVID-19 and how it affects current programs. Ms. Davis inquired if wind screens could be used for the tennis courts. Vice Chairman Bspuda suggested that they be purchased with funds from the pavilion rentals for next spring.

6. **Chairman's Report**

- There was no Chairman's Report at this time.

7. **Adjournment**

Ms. Kantor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary